

## **BENTLEY PAUNCEFOOT PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Bentley Paucefoot Parish Council Held On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 7.30pm in Bentley Village Hall**

**Present** : Chairman A Boss  
 Cllr R Bewsher - Vice Chairman  
 Cllr R Cheape  
 Cllr J Harris  
 Cllr B Spence  
 Cllr G Teague  
 Worcester Council Clr K Taylor  
 District Cllr P Whittaker

A Dyson - Clerk

#### **Public Participation**

3 members of the public were in attendance (please refer to signing in book).

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies &amp; Approval of Absence</b>
	None
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>
	a) None b) None c) None d) None
<b>3.</b>	<b>Election of New councillor</b>
	Chairman Boss proposed Paul Meads to join the PC, Cllr Spence seconded the proposal and Mr Meads was duly elected. Councillor Meads duly signed his Acceptance of Office Form and this was witnessed by the Clerk.
<b>4.</b>	<b>To approve the Minutes of the APC meeting and the Ordinary meetings which were held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.</b>
	The Minutes were accepted by all Councillors and signed by Chairman A Boss.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Progress Reports</b>
	a) Cllr Teague advised that the Village Hall would be closed in August for redecoration. The VH Committee were also receiving tenders for resurfacing of the car park.
	b) <u>Footpaths</u> Following correspondence with Mr Milles, Footpath Officer, he had informed the Clerk that following the brush cutting / strimmer course he had attended with WCC that WCC will loan any equipment he requires to keep the paths clear. He would also be covered by insurance. On that basis the PC had no objections to Mr Milles using his judgement to him making improvements to footpaths using the appropriate equipment. A resident had also brought to his attention that the path through the Thrift was impassable following logging work carried out earlier in the year. The Clerk had contacted Bentley Estates asking if this was something they were prepared to clear but as yet has not had a response. Chairman Boss said he thought it might have been cleared lately as the Gamekeeper had been laying down his pheasants. The Clerk will ask Mr Milles to look at it again and let the PC know what the situation is.
	c) <u>Tree Warden</u> Cllr Cheape advised that within the next few months he would ensure that a replacement oak tree will be planted where the old tree had fallen and disposed of in Lower Bentley.

	<p>d) <u>Tardebigge Relief, In Need &amp; Sickness Charity</u>  Cllr Teague explained to new members of the PC the circumstances surrounding what people / organisations can apply for funds. Cllr Spence suggested sending an email to residents advising them of the organisation. The next meeting will be held in October 2018</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Broadband update</b>
	<p>Cllr Spence who is leading the bid for 19 properties covering for Fosters Green and Lower Bentley, reported that resident reaction had been very positive. He had highlighted to residents that the costs would be approx. just under £1K and that the grant being given by WCC towards the cost was very generous. He has set up a dedicated bank account for monies to be paid into. However, WCC have not signed the contract with BT as yet.</p> <p>Vice Chairman Bewsher will chase the bid people and ask for a draft contract. Cllr Spence reiterated that once the contract is signed, the process will take approx. 12 months to be completed. Vice Chairman Bewsher is leading the bid for 37 properties, covering the Banks Green area. She has distributed the information to residents but as of today's date has not received many responses. She will chase within the next week. The bank account for monies to be paid on this bid has been set up as a savings account on the PC bank account. Cllr Spence reminded all Councillors of the importance of keeping residents details and wishes confidential when dealing with other residents regarding the issue of Broadband wishes.</p> <p>Cllr Harris who is leading a bid for 4 properties on Copyholt Lane is still waiting for confirmation from WCC that they are willing to grant funding towards these properties. He has distributed information to the properties concerned and has had a mixed response from residents.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Lengthsman</b>
	<p>Due to the very dry weather conditions, the Lengthsman has been unable to carry out many tasks. Cllr Harris reported that water had been leaking onto Copyholt Lane from Well Meadow for some weeks. The Clerk will report the issue.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Bentley Pauncefoot Road Safety Campaign</b>
	<p>WCC Cllr Kit Taylor and BDC Cllr Peter Whittaker had joined the meeting for this item at the specific request of the PC.</p> <p>There had been a number of actions since the last meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Spence had received further wheelie bin stickers free of charge from the Safer Roads Partnership and had distributed them to residents on Manor Road. Slow Down wheelie bin stickers have now been distributed to all residents along Cur Lane, Copyholt Lane, Banks Green and Manor Road as the first phase of a road safety campaign.</p> <p>At the time of the meeting Cllr Spence was awaiting confirmation from Tesco as to whether the PC has been awarded any funding from their Bags of Help campaign. This would be allocated towards an education programme which the PC wishes to run advising drivers of the particular dangers of driving on rural roads. Subsequently it has been confirmed that £1,000 has been awarded.</p> <p>Cllr Harris had sent emails to Highways asking for clarification of "diversions" in the village which were directing traffic, in both directions, along Pump House Lane which is clearly signposted as prohibited to motorised vehicles but had received no response.</p> <p>Stephen Hawley from Highways had declined to attend the meeting to discuss the issue saying that "nothing has changed" since their response to the Foxlydiat planning application.</p> <p>Cllr Spence and Vice Chairman Bewsher emphasised that the PCs concerns are not related only to the Foxlydiat development but relate to the general increase in traffic volumes. The PC is extremely frustrated with Highways both in their failure to respond to communications from the PC and their lack of sensitivity to the situation. Chairman Boss asked WCC Cllr Taylor to intervene on their behalf with WCC Highways to show his backing for the PCs concerns. WCC Cllr Taylor asked for a copy of Stephen Hawley's e mail which had been received and a copy of the PCs response to him. These have subsequently been forwarded to him.</p> <p>WCC Cllr Taylor said that he will drive around the Village with Richard Clewer and arrange for cables to be placed on the road in order to monitor traffic volumes and speed. BDC Cllr Whittaker suggested that the PC decide where the cables should be laid. The Cllrs attention was drawn to a Dept of Transport document stating that Villages should have reduced speed limits in line with urban areas and that residents' concerns</p>

